



GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

## Millions Added to Purchasing Power By 75-Cent Wage, New AFL Contracts

Wagc, INC

### Postal Workers, Other Government Employees Share in Pay Hikes

(1) Signing of a new minimum wage law.

(3) Thousands of new contract increases recently negotiated by AFU unions.

It resulted largely from the efforts of the AFL to raise the legal minimum

minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents by congressional action; to amend government wage laws to raise salaries; and to win pay increases and other benefits in contract negotiations with private employers.

The AFL will continue its drive for broader coverage of the minimum wage law. AFL unions will insist on more money and other benefits in contract negotiations the remainder of this year and in 1960.

**AFL President Signs Wage Law**  
AFL President William Green headed a group of AFL officials who witnessed President Truman's formal signing of the amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act raising the federal minimum wage from 40 to 45 cents an hour.

With Mr. Green were Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building Trades Department; James A. Brown, low secretary-treasurer of the AFL;

Mr. Truman said that the law "promote the general welfare of the nation."

The AFL's 68th convention in St. Paul voted to fight in the next year to expand the coverage of this law.

Mr. Truman said the new law will almost eliminate child labor, help employees to recover unpaid back wages

Also on Mr. Truman's desk for signing before November 1 were bills to increase the annual salaries of postal employees an average \$200 a year and

The minimum wage hike was estimated to add \$300,000,000 in worker purchasing power annually. The government pay increases will add a

**New Contracts Add Millions**  
Wage increases running to million of dollars annually are provided in thousands of new contracts being negotiated.

New agreements providing general wage increases in addition to pension and welfare benefits have been signed recently in the longshore, meat packing, retailing, milk and other industries.

## Prospects Are Good For Metal Workers

Washington.—Prospects for regular employment in the nation's metal and metal product industries are good for some time to come.

James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Metal Trade Department, carried that opinion to the third session of the Metal Trade Committee of the International Labor Organization scheduled for Geneva November 2 to 12.

Mr. Brownlow, American worker delegate to the meeting, is accompanied by Taylor T. Buchanan, Cincinnati, editor of the AFL *Molden* and *Foundary Workers Journal* and George P. Delaney, AFL international

Employment in the metal trades is way off in shipbuilding and unsettled in some other fields because of the steel strike. Mr. Thompson is a

The AFL delegates will report on industrial conditions, wage increases, social legislation and technical improvements in their fields since the

**NEIL MILLER ASSIGNED**

Paris.—Neil Miller, former editor of the AFL news service, has been assigned to the Paris office of the American Labor Education Center.

activities of the Trade Union Advisory Council of the European Recovery Plan. Miller reported to the Paris office from Washington about mid-October.

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